

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE
RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Beatty (Neguse)	Johnson (LA)	Palazzo
Brooks	(Graves (LA))	(Fleischmann)
(Fleischmann)	Johnson (OH)	Pascarell
Doyle, Michael	(Fulcher)	(Pallone)
F. (Pallone)	Johnson (TX)	Payne (Pallone)
Gibbs (Smucker)	(Pallone)	Peltola (Correa)
Gohmert (Weber	Kahele (Correa)	Pressley
(TX))	Kirkpatrick	(Neguse)
Gonzales, Tony	(Pallone)	Ruppersberger
(Gimenez)	Lawrence	(Sarbanes)
Gosar (Weber	(Garcia (TX))	Simpson
(TX))	Lawson (FL)	(Fulcher)
Hayes (Neguse)	(Evans)	Sires (Pallone)
Herrera Beutler	Long	Swalwell
(Stewart)	(Fleischmann)	(Correa)
Huffman (Levin	Meeks (Meng)	Titus (Pallone)
(CA))	Napolitano	Welch (Pallone)
Jacobs (NY)	(Correa)	Williams (GA)
(Sempolinski)	Nehls (Mace)	(McBath)
	Newman (Correa)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

PERMISSION TO INSERT EXPLANATORY
MATERIAL ON H.RES. 1512,
JAMES M. INHOFE NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2023

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and I may each insert in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD not later than December 12, 2022, such material as we may deem explanatory of the Senate amendment and the motion to concur with the amendment on H.R. 7776.

(The contents of this submission will be published in Book III of this RECORD.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

JAMES M. INHOFE NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2023

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1512) providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 7776, with an amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

(Text of H. Res. 1512, see Book II of this RECORD.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 1512.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise to urge Members to support this piece of legislation. I thank everyone who worked on this process. All told, from the beginning of it, to now, over 2,000 Member requests were considered in some form or another, either in committee, on the House, or as we worked with the Senate.

With that open, collaborative, and bipartisan process, we have produced, I think, an excellent product. First, and foremost, we support the men and women who serve in the United States military in this bill. Most specifically, we serve the people who are economically struggling the most by a 4.6 percent pay raise, increase in the basic housing allowance, increase in the basic needs allowance, making sure that the price of items at the commissary do not go up so much as to price people out of it.

We support the men and women who serve in the military in this bill, and that is the number one most important role that we have.

This bill also continues on the work that we did on last year's efforts to reform how sexual assault is handled in the military by including sexual harassment in the portions that are under the jurisdiction of the special victim prosecutor.

There is a laundry list of things we do to really improve the quality of life for servicemembers and to exercise our oversight.

This bill also contains a number of other oversight bills; the Intelligence oversight bill, the Foreign Affairs oversight bill, the Coast Guard authorization bill—authorization was the word I was looking for—as well as the Water Resources Development Act.

All told, this bill is Congress exercising its authority to authorize and do oversight of the executive branch on behalf of the American people; and I think that is enormously important.

We are a coequal branch of government. It is our responsibility to exercise that oversight and represent the people.

Now, obviously, the most direct, sort of blunt force way that we do it is through appropriations, the money we spend. That is incredibly important as well.

But the authorizing portion of what we do matters a great deal. It is our opportunity, as individual Members of Congress, to set policy for this country at the Department of Defense, first and foremost but, as I said, also in this bill on intel and foreign affairs and the Coast Guard and elsewhere. It is really important that we get that job done and we do it really, really well.

I can't go through every single item that is in this bill, but I can tell you that just about every Member of this House has something in this bill that is important for policy, important to their district. I know because they have been talking to me for the last 6 months about it.

This is important policy that makes a huge difference for the people of this body and the people of this country, and I would urge us to support it.

I want to say two more quick things before I yield to my partner—actually, three more quick things before I yield to my partner, Mr. ROGERS, on this.

First of all, I really want to thank him, the staff, and everybody involved in all of that. To field that many requests takes a lot of time. The staff on the Armed Services Committee has been outstanding, and we are a bipartisan staff. We work together in a collaborative process.

All of the committee members, Republican and Democrat, have worked well together. Heck, in this moment I will even say something good about the Senate. They worked well with us also in a bipartisan, bicameral way. I really thank them for putting that process together.

Second, I do want to just briefly address, there is always a lot of controversy about issues not within our jurisdiction and whether or not they go into the bill. What has to happen on that is the committees of jurisdiction have to agree. Democrat, Republican, House, Senate, you have got to get all four. If you get all four, great, we are happy to carry it. If you don't, we can't.

I know it is important to you. I know you wish we could, but we can't because we don't have the votes for it. So I hope people understand that as we work with them on those outside issues.

Lastly, I do want to address the vaccine issue, and I want to make a couple of things perfectly clear. Number one, the policy that the Department of Defense put in place in August of 2021 requiring servicemembers to be vaccinated was the absolute right policy.

It saved lives and it improved readiness for the United States military while it was in place because it was absolutely clear that that vaccine made an enormous difference in protecting people from the disease. It was the absolute right policy; that is number one.

Number two, servicemembers who refused to follow that order had to be disciplined. Orders are not optional in the United States military. You cannot function that way, and we are not going to undo that.

But number three, right now, today, what is it, December whatever, in 2022, a policy that says you have to have gotten the first shot, and that is what the policy is that we are undoing in this bill. It says that you have to have gotten that first shot way back in 2021, either one Johnson & Johnson shot or the two-shot Pfizer or Moderna deal.